

Cemetery Commission

Minutes of the Meeting – Monday March 30, 2015

The meeting of the Harwich Cemetery Commission was held at the Small Meeting Room Town Hall and called to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioner Chair Cynthia Eldredge, Commissioners Warren Nichols, Wilfred Remillard, Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Cemetery Administrator Robbin Kelley, members from the First Congregational Church Memorial Garden; Lynn Carver, Mary Montgomery, Rev. Thomas Leinbach, Rev. Terry Newbury and members of the congregation, and William Galvin were in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes

Cynthia Eldredge approved the minutes of February 23, 2015 Warren Nichols seconded.

Correspondence from Town Hall & Associations

1. Christopher Clark opens discussion to resolve issue with the church and the 1988 agreement for the memorial garden. The agreement was for a scattering garden has now become the burial of cremated remains which are located on top the previously buried and how do we go forward from here within the confines of the law. Barbara Huggins, Attorney for First Congregational Church Memorial Garden had email response to Robbin Kelley on Friday March 27, 2015 at 4:56 pm; which rejected the proposal from Harwich Cemetery Commission to First Congregational Church Memorial Garden dated March 5, 2015. Email was opened at 8:00 am on Monday, it was printed and hand delivered to commissioners at the start of meeting on Monday morning 8:30 am.
2. Cynthia Eldredge cited court case filed by First Congregational Church Book 1268 page 35 to record church and parish house on land court filed August 28, 1964. Letter from Harwich Cemetery Commission for the Scattering of ashes in open area. The commissioners in the December 12, 1988 stated it might be useful for an attorney in the church to check Chapters 112 and 114 of the Mass General Law. On July 14, 1914 Paul Sweetser, Town Surveyor and Robbin Kelley, Cemetery Administrator had scanned the area to the left of the memorial garden and found a site suitable with no burials. On September 29, 2014 the Cemetery Commission voted unanimously to revoke the Agreement made in 1988. Whitehead, who's parents are buried in the memorial garden, stated that his parents weren't buried over anyone and would like their burials to stay where they are. Several family members who's loved ones are buried in the memorial garden were upset. Wilfred Remillard stated that the Cemetery Commission monthly meeting wasn't the right venue for this discussion and that we should have a public hearing so that the families on both side could discuss the issues. He also said I have not have time to read over letter from legal counsel and will need to review all of the documents.
3. Email from Kathy Riley dated March 18, 2015 request for discussion and or meeting, her father is buried in Memorial Garden. Both Cemetery Administrator and Cemetery Commissioner Cynthia Eldredge spoke with Kathy Riley to express concern for the letter she received from First Congregational Church. Her father is buried in the Memorial Garden and her mother has purchased a burial space. She would like her father moved to the new section and will meet to pick her parents new lot assignment.
4. Email from Lynn Carver requesting help with individuals whom they have no cremation certificated for burials dated March 19, 2015.
5. Email from Robbin Kelley to First Church Memorial Garden, myself and Cynthia Eldredge will help find places of death of the 69+ cremains buried in memorial garden. Cemetery

Administrator also spoke with several family members who are buried in memorial garden with positive feedback to new location.

6. New Deed for Thomas Mazzer for 1B Harwich Avenue South (Grave # 8) in Island Pond Cemetery for \$800.00.
7. New Deed for Michael Clemente for 2B Harwich Avenue South (Graves 6, 7 & 8) in Island Pond Cemetery for \$2,400.00.
8. New Deed for Irene Kelly Blakely & Karen Kelly for 82R Pine Avenue (Graves 1, 2, 3 & 4) in Mount Pleasant Cemetery for \$3,200.00.
9. Bills were paid to the following Eversource Electric \$7.37, Cemetery Water Bills: Mount Pleasant \$80.86, North Harwich \$110.00, Cemetery Building in Mount Pleasant \$66.22, South Harwich \$65.00, Pine Grove \$138.30 and Island Pond \$140.80. Payroll for Robbin Kelley, Cemetery Administrator, Mileage for February 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robbin Kelley,
Cemetery Administrator